

Abraham Lincoln papers

From R. H. Baptist to George D. Prentice¹, October 22, 1864

1 The following was enclosed in George D. Prentice to William H. Seward, October 25, 1864.

Johnsons Island Ohio Oct 22/64

Dear Sir

Until I read your "Card" in the Journal of the 17th I thought that Col C J Prentice² had been acquitted for the killing of White at Abingdon Va— A conversation occurred between White & myself, that ought to be made known in the trial of your son by all means. The substance of which I told your son so as to put him on his guard, soon after it took place — which I recon he will recollect, when reminded of it. I should long since have made known what I know, but I thought he was acquitted, as you wrote me that he was. I have already written you at the suggestion of a lawyer, who is here. But fearing you might not get the letter, & seeing from your Card that the trial is to take place soon after the 8th Nov next, I write this so as you may have time to act in the matter. My evidence would be important, in his case — to show justification.³

2 Clarence J. Prentice, the son of George D. Prentice, was an officer in the Confederate Army. Major Prentice had been captured in 1863 and Lincoln helped secure his parole at the request of his father. After being released from prison, Prentice returned to the army, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and continued to serve in the army until the war ended. See *Official Records*, Series II, Volume 5, 520, 527-29, and *Collected Works*, VI, 219.

3 After being shown Baptist's letter, Lincoln arranged for his parole so that he could testify on behalf of Clarence Prentice. See *Collected Works*, VIII, 302.

I am very Respectfully yours Truly

R H Baptist Capt P A C S

7th Confederate Cav Batt

PS I would like to hear

from you in regard to it